

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for guiding a printhead fixed to a carriage, which comprises:

a carriage,

a set of substantially parallel first and second guide rods;

~~a plurality of~~ at least first and second plain bearings operatively connected with said carriage and in sliding contact with said set of substantially parallel first and second guide rods;

a said first plain bearing in contact with a said first guide rod is rigidly connected to the carriage and a said second plain bearing is in contact with a said second guide rod, the second plain bearing being movably fixed to the carriage by a resilient element, wherein the resilient element allows substantially no movement of the second plain bearing with respect to the carriage in a direction substantially parallel to the first and second guide rods.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element allows the greatest movement of the second plain bearing with respect to the carriage in the plane formed by the first and a second guide rods ~~rod~~.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element is a leaf spring.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the second plain bearing is fixed via the leaf spring to the carriage in such a manner that the plane of the leaf spring is substantially parallel to the set of first and second guide rods and is substantially perpendicular to the plane formed by said rods.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the guide rods have a substantially round peripheral line and the bearing surfaces are concave.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each bearing surface is an arc of a circle having a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the guide rod which is in contact with said bearing surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first plain bearing has two bearing surfaces, and wherein both bearing surfaces of said first plain bearing are in contact with the first guide rod substantially at the top thereof.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) An inkjet printer provided with the apparatus of claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) A printhead carriage plain bearing comprising:

a housing containing a cavity provided with a bearing ring for sliding contact between the printhead carriage plain bearing and a guide rod, said bearing ring having a first side facing a the guide rod and an opposing second side facing the cavity wall, the first side being provided with recesses as well as the second side thereof and/or the cavity wall, such that the bearing ring is divided into a plurality of segments, two of which having a bearing surface for providing sliding contact with the rod, said two segments being supported at their second side by the cavity wall, and said plurality of segments including an adjacent segment that is not supported by the cavity wall.

11. (New) An apparatus for guiding a printhead fixed to a carriage, which comprises

a carriage,

a set of substantially parallel first and second guide rods;

at least first and second plain bearings operatively connected

with said carriage and in sliding contact with said set of substantially parallel first and second guide rods;

said first plain bearing having two bearing surfaces, and wherein both bearing surfaces of said first plain bearing being in contact with the first guide rod substantially at the top thereof,

said first plain bearing in contact with said first guide rod and said second plain bearing is in contact with said second guide rod, the second plain bearing being movably fixed to the carriage by a resilient element, wherein the resilient element allows substantially no movement of the second plain bearing with respect to the carriage in a direction substantially parallel to the first and second guide rods.